Dear St John’s School Community

This term like all others seems to be going very quickly. There are numerous whole School and Class events being organized at the moment which means that the end of the school year is closing fast. The Year 6 Graduation is only a few weeks away with the Closing Service to follow.

I would like to highlight our upcoming St John’s Carols Service at the School on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30th on the School Oval. This is a wonderful night of celebration, music and worship as a community. As we lead up to the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, it is an opportunity to reflect and enjoy the wonders that Christmas brings. Further details are in this Newsletter.

Our teachers are busy gathering information and preparing reports for the students. It is a timely reminder that Friday November 28 is a pupil free day for report writing. Compiling reports is a long and at times stressful process so I commend out teachers for the long hours and diligent preparation that is required to complete these reports.

The Parents and Friends held their Annual General Meeting last week and it was good to see the number of parents who have taken up Committee roles. The Committee currently has a vacancy for Secretary so I would encourage anyone who is able to help in this capacity to please consider joining the Committee. Parents and Friends is a great way to connect with the School community. St John’s is very fortunate to have such a dedicated team in P & F and I take this opportunity to thank them, all volunteering their time for the School.

Those who are sure of themselves do not talk all the time. People who stay calm have real insight. Proverbs 17:27

Comment -: Wise people look often and say little. They are a rock when the storms of life come. They know that they know what they know.

Brian Schultz

Devotional Thought

Matthew 25:14-30

In this week’s reading, Jesus tells a parable of how a man entrusted some of his money to three of his servants before he went on a long journey. Verse 15: “To one he gave five bags of silver, to another two bags of silver and to another one bag, each according to his ability.”

The first two servants doubled his money, but the third, fearful of what his master would say if he lost it, dug a hole in the ground and buried it. The master returned and praised the first two servants. When it came to the third, his master was furious and called him “wicked and lazy”.

The parable is not about money. The possessions we have aren’t ours for eternity. God loans them to us for our time on earth and we can’t take them away. Rather, this is a parable about stepping out in faith to use our gifts and talents that God has given us.

Just like the master in the story, God gives us resources – money, opportunities, jobs and material possessions - to match with our own unique abilities and turn them into action. He calls us to be good stewards of what we’ve been given, and the best way to do this is to combine our possessions with God’s-given talents. Everyone has different skills, and God gives resources to us according to our ability to use them well. When we do so, God blesses us with unexpected ways; the first servant never expected to be given the third servant’s money.

But sometimes our fear holds us back from using our talents. We fear we will lose what we have; we fear that people will laugh, and we even fear that God will be angry with us if we mess it up. In this parable, however, fear is shown as the enemy of faith. Fear stops us from turning our gifts and talents into action and good works which will make a tangible difference on this earth, to God’s glory and to the benefit of those around us.

So, what talents have you buried that need digging up?

Jonny Hedt – Pastoral Care
**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>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anela</td>
<td>25th November</td>
<td>Kinder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>25th November</td>
<td>MB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Second Hand Uniform**

We currently hold some stock of uniform in the Shop and we ask that you collect this uniform prior to the end of Term 4. Any items that remain at our Second Hand Shop will be disposed of.

**Lost Property**

We have heaps of Lost Property items looking to be re-united with their owners. If you think you have lost any items, could you please have a look in the collection as soon as possible.

Lynn Lytzki

**Canteen**

Thank you to Belinda Yockins for helping in the Canteen today.

Liz Gardner – Canteen Manager

**Library**

This week will be the last week of Library for the students.

Don’t be sad – Library will be open again next year!

Could parents please assist their children with the prompt return of all books which are on loan so that we can commence stock-take.

Students have enjoyed the rhyming book “Iggy Peck Architect” by Andrea Beaty. They have been challenged doing dot-to-dot exercises featuring various architectural icons and world landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty.

Book Club due TODAY.

Lynn Lytzki – Librarian

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to Mackenzie who competed in the All Schools Athletics Championships in the Under 14 Javelin. Mackenzie made Top 8 and threw a Personal Best 27.78m!

Congratulations also to Rose who successfully competed in the IDP 5 National Club Gymnastics Competitions last week at The Arena. The top 51 Level 5 gymnasts from around Australia competed in this event. Following this Competition Rose travelled to the Australian Institute of Sport to attend an elite training clinic with master coaches.

Well done to you both for your hard work and dedication.

**Basketball**

St Johns Bobcats

Saturday 22nd November – 9.50am
Saturday 29th November - 9.50am

Leeanne Williams

**Years 3 & 4 Netball**

After some recent interest from St John’s parents, I am seeking interested players to form a Years 3 and 4 Netball team in 2015. The team will play on a Monday night at the Geelong Basketball and Netball Centre in South Geelong. I’m not able to coach the team but am happy to do the initial organising.

If your child is interested in joining the team or you would like further information, please contact me on 0409 214 122.

Leanne Williams - St John’s Parent

**Name Tapes Fundraiser**

The St John’s Parents and Friends are currently running a Fundraiser, selling name tapes and accessories. Order forms are available in the School Office. As we have many un-named items in Lost Property at the moment, the fundraiser would be a great opportunity to purchase labels and benefit the School at the same time.
Parents and Friends

The P&F AGM was held last week. Thank you to all who attended.

A new Executive Committee was elected. The new Committee is a mix of old and new faces to the P&F.

The positions are as follows;

President: Sally Fitzpatrick, Vice President: Milissa Meyer, Secretary: Vacant, Treasurer: Rebekah Lennon (remaining from 2013/14), Kindergarten Reps: Candice Flack and Callie Fry.

Lorelle Hamilton remains in the position of Fete Co-ordinator and Symone van der Vliet remains in the position of Working Bee Co-ordinator.

The position of Secretary is vacant. Of course we are very keen to fill this position ASAP. Lots of help and support is available for anyone interested. The P&F is very rewarding and we have heaps of fun and a lot of laughs. If anyone would like more information please call Sally Fitzpatrick on 0407739413.

P&F are now busy planning for upcoming events in 2015. The first event is the First Day of School Morning Tea, held on Monday February 2nd, the first day of Term in 2015 at 9am. It will be a great chance to catch up for all new and existing families.

Secondly, the Family Picnic promises to be a “MAGICAL” experience! It will be held on Friday 20th February at 5.30pm.

Lorelle and the Fete Committee are well into the planning stages for next year’s Mothers’ Day Fete. Save the Date – Saturday May 9.

The last P&F meeting for the year will be held on Monday 1st December at 9.10am in the Conference Room. Anyone interested in getting involved is welcome to come along.

Sally Fitzpatrick - President

Geelong Lutheran College

“Milestone, Millstone or Stepping Stone” was the theme of Gary Jewson’s address to our graduating students at last night’s Graduation and Valedictory Ceremony. It was an inspiring night, retelling the well-worn stories, reliving memories and celebrating the moment. Focusing on the future, this first group of graduates received their charge:

“As students of Geelong Lutheran College, you have been nurtured and encouraged to grow up into Christ and to be equipped for a life of service. You have grown in knowledge and wisdom. You have learned to honour those around you. You have now fulfilled your duties as a student and God is now calling you to a new purpose. Go then, with the blessing of God and the College community, to live out this purpose and use your God-given talents to shape and enrich the world.”

We will hold this group in our memories and pray that they look back on their years at GLC with fondness, that they keep growing and learning to fulfill their purposes, and that they will stay in contact with us. Thank-you to Mrs Tattersall and all our staff who have been involved with the formation of these fine young men and women.

We are well into finishing this year and planning for next year. Our Year 11 students have completed their exams and today they start their transition to Year 12, Year 9 and 10 students will start their exams next week and our incoming Preps will have the second of their orientation days. As a reminder to parents, tomorrow is our Report Writing Day and no classes are scheduled for students.

Information on Booklists for next year has been received from OfficeMax and will be posted to parents. Additionally, details of next year’s computer rollout will be posted to parents. For next year, we will be offering a choice of two computing devices through JB Education. This scheme is mandatory for students in years 7 and 10 and open to students in the middle and senior schools who are not on our existing scheme.

Anticipating next week’s highlights, our Years 5 and 6 Debating Team will compete in the State Level Competitions and our Year 9 students will complete the “Rite Journey.” Congratulations to these students for their persistence and every success.

Barry Kruger – Head of School

Church Information

St John’s Lutheran Church, 165 Yarra Street, Geelong. Rev Mark Blackwell. Sunday worship with Holy Communion 9am. Sunday School is now every week during school term. Office: 5221 5121. Playgroup meets 9am-11am every Tuesday of school term at Tyne Cottage adjacent to church. All welcome.


Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Mollers Lane, Leopold. Rev Mark Blackwell. Worship, 11am Every Sunday with Holy Communion.

Extend After School Care

Last week we were able to get outside more, as it wasn’t nearly as hot as it was the previous week. Whilst out there, we played brandy (with a soft ball, of course!), many games of cricket and imaginative role play games, using whatever items we could find in the playground. We also did many different activities inside, including playing with large pieces of material, making a delicious Anzac slice to help commemorate Remembrance Day and making some paper mache hot air balloons. They’re still in the mache stages but we hope to have them all finished and painted in the next week or two.

-Stephanie

Our Extend Superstar is... Will R, for helping to pack up at the end of the day. Thanks Will, great job!

Next week’s activities:
Monday 24 November: Milky Plastic Christmas Ornaments
Tuesday 25 November: Children’s Choice
Wednesday 26 November: Christmas Shortbread Biscuits
Thursday 27 November: Christmas Craft
Friday 28 November: Pupil Free Day - TBA

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