Dear St John's School Community

As we finalise our last week of the 2014 school year, we have been reflecting on the highlights of the year in preparation for the Closing Service on Wednesday evening.

The year has been one of great achievements in all areas including the wonderful results from our Jolly Phonics and Spelling Mastery Programs, the outstanding achievements of our representative teams and individuals from athletics, swimming and cross country to chess, German poetry, art displays and choir. We are so proud of all of our students as they individually achieve in so many ways.

The Graduation Evening which was held last night was a celebration of the end of the Primary School journey for our Year 6 students. The Evening was one of laughter and joy mixed with some sadness that it signalled the end of their experience at St John's. Best wishes to all of our graduating class for their future.

The Closing Service is a fitting way to end the year with the School gathering as one to reflect, to announce our School Leaders for 2015 and to farewell those who are graduating or leaving St John's. The Service will commence at 7 pm sharp so I ask that parents have their children at the Barrabool Hills Church at 6.45 pm in readiness for them to be seated at 6.50 pm.

This year we say farewell to Mrs Carmel Schulze who will be retiring from St John's, Mrs Belinda Johnstone who has resigned to spend time with her son, Mrs Cass Abram who will be in a support role to her husband in his ministry and to Mrs Deb Pisarskis who will be taking up a new role at Geelong Lutheran College. We thank them for their dedicated service to St John's and wish them all every success in their new roles.

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Debbie Howard has been appointed as our Music Teacher, replacing Mrs Carmel Schulze. We will welcome her to St John's in 2015.

May God bless you all this Christmas as we take time to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child with family and friends. May you have a safe, relaxed and blessed Christmas break.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

With God’s blessings

Brian Schultz

Booklist Collection

Booklists will be available for collection on TUESDAY JANUARY 20 at the School Hall commencing at 9 am until 1 pm.

Booklist Collection

The School Magazine will be sent home tomorrow. All families will receive 1 copy. If you would like another copy, you can purchase it from the School Office at a cost of $20.
Devotional Thought

Devotional Thoughts – Luke 10:38-42

As the year draws to a close, it’s easy to get overwhelmed with ever-growing buckets of loose ends and jobs to complete. Most of us have a long checklist in our heads; we talk of “making it” to Christmas, of “so many jobs” and being “so busy” and not knowing how we’ll “get there”. Bedtimes are delayed with baking, shopping, card writing, emailing, phone calls, tired children, and scouring the internet for the perfectly-matched presents for our loved ones.

People haven’t changed in 2000 years. St Luke records Martha’s actions when Jesus arrived on her doorstep with his disciples. Martha busied herself with the preparations for 13 grown men - all probably with large appetites – while her sister Mary sat with Jesus and listened to him, not lifting a finger to help.

Martha was understandably cranky and complained to Jesus: “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

Jesus’ reply was probably infuriating for Martha. He didn’t tell Mary to help.

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Mary chose the only thing that mattered; sitting in the presence of Jesus, listening.

At the first Christmas, the traffic was awful. Bethlehem was bustling with census madness. The inns were all booked out. Amid all the chaos, a young woman gave birth to a baby boy named Jesus. The only people that welcomed him that night were some shepherds.

Busyness cloud our clear vision of the only thing that matters; spending time in our Saviour’s presence. If your jobs or “to-do” lists are getting in the way of your relationship with Jesus this Christmas, take a step back, open your Bible and sit in his presence, listening.

Jonny Hedt, Pastoral Care

Birthdays

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>13th Dec</td>
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<td>Maksym</td>
<td>14th Dec</td>
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<td>Kai</td>
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<td>Alexander</td>
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<td>Mieka</td>
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<td>Tahra</td>
<td>27th Dec</td>
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Kindergarten

What an exciting year it has been. A couple of weeks ago some excited Kinder children shared with their families and friends the story of the very first Christmas at their end of year Christmas Concert. It doesn't seem that long ago that the same group of children were walking through the Kinder gates ready for the year ahead. We are so proud of the children and how far they have come.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and children of the Kindergarten for yet another amazing year of fun and learning. Wishing you all every blessing as we take time to celebrate the birth of our Saviour this Christmas.

God Bless

Natalie, Tracey, Sue, Carley and Wendy - Kindergarten Staff

Canteen

Canteen 2015

As I will be having some minor surgery at the beginning of 2015, I will not be available until late February to manage the Canteen. Details of the opening date and Rosters will be available in the early 2015 Newsletters.

Liz Gardner – Canteen Manager

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mackenzie who had a wonderful time competing at the National School Sport Track and Field Championships.

On her first day in the Individual Shot Put Event Mackenzie was very nervous and didn’t throw at her best. Mackenzie finished 12th in Under 11 Individual Shot Put.

On the Teams Day Mackenzie did super well with a huge Personal Best of 10.84. She threw the longest in her Victorian Team, with her team of Under 11 Girls coming 2nd in the Teams Shot Put Event.

Well done Mackenzie on your amazing effort to compete and to throw your Personal Best at the National Championships.

Geelong City Nativity Scavenger Hunt

Flyers are available from the School Office.

This December, there will be a Scavenger Hunt within central Geelong – in and around Market Square, and along the Newtown end of Pakington St.

Handmade Wise Men, or Wise Guys, who are searching for the baby Jesus, have wandered into the windows of participating shops (watch for the little star sign). Once the Scavenger Hunters have spotted the Wise Guys, they can enter the shop and request a star to be stuck into their Scavenger Hunt Passports.

Free Family photo in the Nativity Scene.
As an alternative to a photograph with Santa, pose for a free Christmas photograph of your family in a Nativity Scene.
Over the first 2 weekends in December, families can get dressed up as characters from the Nativity, shepherds, angels and so on, and pose for a free digital photograph. This will be available for download from a secure website. Costumes will be available.

Get your family photo in the Nativity Scene:
Saturday 6 & 13 December, Market Square, 10am-3pm
Sunday 7 December, Steam Packet Market, 10am to 3pm

Call Wesley Uniting - 5229 8866 or All Saints Anglican 5223 1118 for more info.

Website: http://www.geelongcitynativity.com A Geelong City Ministers project, supported by Geelong Connected Communities.

Angela McLean – Wellbeing Coordinator

Christmas Services

Sunday before Christmas December 21
Our Redeemer, 60 Ballarat Road, North Geelong – 9.30 am (Special service for the 4th Sunday in Advent)
St Paul’s Lutheran Church, Grovedale – 9.30am Readings and Carols.
Leopold - Christmas worship at 11am
St John’s, 165 Yarra St, Worship at 9am

Christmas Eve
Our Redeemer, 60 Ballarat Road, North Geelong – 7.30 pm (Service with Christmas story and carols)
St Paul’s 7.30pm: Christmas Eve Children’s Play and Carols
St Paul’s Christmas Eve Midnight Mass 11.30pm
St John’s, 165 Yarra Street - 7pm (Children sharing with us the Christmas story).

Christmas Day
Our Redeemer, 60 Ballarat Road, North Geelong – 9.30 am (Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion)
St Paul’s: 9.30am: Christmas Day Service
St John’s, 165 Yarra Street - 9.00am

Sunday after Christmas
Sunday December 28th - Our Redeemer, 60 Ballarat Road, North Geelong – 9.30am
St Paul’s: Worship with Holy Communion 9.30am.
St John’s, 165 Yarra St, Worship at 9am

New Year’s Eve
Combined New Year’s Eve Service (31st Dec) at St. Paul’s Grovedale - 7.30pm, with Holy Communion (no Services at St John’s or Our Redeemer).

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.

This year has rapidly drawn to a close and what a year it has been! I would like to share some of the highlights as I see them.

This year marks a sense of completion. Our first class of Year 12 students graduated from the College. Yet, our work of development is not finished. We may have reached an important milestone but the journey is not over. Important initiatives for this year included the VCAL pathway in the Senior School, the development of our New Generation Learning Spaces at Year 7 and the literacy focus in the Primary School. Our Primary School is very much in the “enhancement” phase in its teaching and learning. We have created a new positon in the Middle and Senior Schools, starting next year, for a Team Leader in Curriculum so that our teaching and learning may be enhanced at those levels.

I am encouraged by our developing social and environmental conscience. Here I am thinking of the fundraising in the Primary School to support the community meals program at Christ Church Anglican, that some of our students will be involved in serving Christmas lunch to the under privileged, the hands on community service of our Middle and Senior School students at the Geelong Food Relief Centre, our Year 9 students’ involvement in the City Cite program, the Coastal Guardians program and the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden project.

Finally, I am pleased with our students’ engagement within the College community. Our Coordinators have worked hard to develop a supportive community with real leadership opportunities for students. The recent Martin Luther Day was an initiative of the Student Forum. Visitors to our College frequently comment favourably on the ambience within our classrooms.

In this Advent season we look back and reflect on our sin that brought the baby Jesus into our world. At Christmas, we see the realisation of God’s promises and we can look forward to the possibilities that come with forgiveness, redemption and deliverance.

Christmas blessings!

Barry Krueger – Head of School