Dear St John’s School Community

What excitement a new school year brings to our School Community. We welcome all returning students and their families and our dedicated and refreshed staff. We would also like to welcome all our new families to the St John’s Community and we are very excited about having you as part of our School and Kindergarten. Thanks to our diligent and enthusiastic Parents and Friends for generously providing our annual ‘Welcome morning tea.’ It was pleasing to see the new parents conversing with those already established in our School Community. The topic of one these conversations mentioned ‘that feeling of community’ and knowing that this is the right place for their children’s education.

Welcome to our new staff for the commencement of the school year: Alison Wooniard (Reception), Debbie Howard (Music) and Joanne Sizeland (Wednesday Kindergarten). As many of you may already know, our St John’s Church and School Pastor Mark Blackwell, has accepted a ‘call’ to Concordia College in Toowoomba, Queensland. We have been blessed to have Pastor Mark, Natalie (Kindergarten Team Educational Leader), Joshua (Year 4) and Keziah (Year 3) as part of our Church, School and Kindergarten communities. The Blackwells will be leaving later this term.

It has been pleasing to see most or our students in their new and updated uniforms. As the two year lead in transition time has concluded it is expected that all students comply. I realise there are still students waiting on some items. The manager of Noone Imagewear has passed on the following information: There is a total of 13 blazers outstanding and these will be delivered by Friday this week. Due to a higher than expected uptake of Kinder students purchasing hats, a slight delay has occurred. These should also be available this Friday. There are a few incidental items such as rugby tops and house tops to come, but these will also be rectified in the coming days/ week. If blazers are still to be ordered, it would be appreciated if they could be ordered sooner rather than later.

There are some important dates to be added into your diaries so please read the newsletter carefully. Please note, if you are wanting to assist in the Kindergarten and School, you are required to have a Working With Children Card and complete the Valuing Safe Communities (VSC) training. This lasts for 3 years. The VSC training dates are also included in this newsletter.

Our Principal, Mr Gary Jewson in an address to the combined staff of St John’s and Geelong Lutheran College, mentioned that there is good evidence to suggest that students in a school achieve higher standards when there are two things in place:

1. When the team works together well, gets on well, trusts each other, challenges each other to be better; and

2. When the team places high expectations on each other and then on the students to achieve well in every task and in every lesson.

(Amanda Ripley “The smartest kids in the world and how they got that way”, 2014)

I recently read an Occasional Essay written by Geoff Masters on this topic. (The power of expectation - Australian Council for Educational Research, 2013). He wrote:

‘It is well known that students are more likely to learn successfully when engaged and motivated and when provided with learning opportunities appropriate to their current levels of achievement and learning needs. Students are less likely to learn when given work that is much too easy or much too difficult for them, meaning that ‘differenitated’ teaching is important when students are at widely varying levels of achievement.’
The classes are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Class name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Mrs Naomi Gibbons</td>
<td>Prep 1 (P1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Miss Charlene Grieger</td>
<td>Prep 2 (P2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Mrs Deidre Priebenow</td>
<td>Junior 1 (J1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Mr Stephen Illingworth</td>
<td>Junior 2 (J2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Mrs Melinda Troeth</td>
<td>Junior 3 (J3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Mrs Anna Burger</td>
<td>Middle 1 (M1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Miss Carrie Veith</td>
<td>Middle 2 (M2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Miss Kathy Seljak</td>
<td>Middle 3 (M3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Mr Steven Tkaczuk</td>
<td>Senior 1 (S1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Mrs Margie Foott</td>
<td>Senior 2 (S2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

God’s blessings to all as we begin this 2015 school year.

Brian Schultz

Devotional Thoughts

**Forever New**

(Bible reading: Luke 2:22-40  *Simeon and Anna see Jesus*)

It’s the start of a new school year; for some, the first week of school. Many children have new uniforms, schoolbags, lunchboxes, pencils and books. They may have a new classroom, new teacher, new friends, even a new school.

Simeon and Anna met Jesus when he was very new; only eight days old! Although they were both very old, God told them both something special about this new baby. He told Simeon that Jesus was the Saviour God had promised. He told Anna that Jesus had come to set his people free from their troubles. Both Simeon and Anna praised God for the new thing he was doing.

So let’s be like Simeon and Anna. Let’s listen to what God says. Let’s meet Jesus in his Word. And let’s praise him for who he is and what he has done.

Some of the things that are new this week will soon start to wear out and look old, but God tells us that the promises he makes to us are ‘new every morning’.

Pastor Lester Priebenow, ‘Our Redeemer’, North Geelong

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following students who have celebrated their birthdays over the school holidays and in the coming week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olivia</td>
<td>2nd January</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William</td>
<td>3rd January</td>
<td>S1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vedanshi</td>
<td>4th January</td>
<td>S2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwyn</td>
<td>6th January</td>
<td>S1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viktoria</td>
<td>6th January</td>
<td>M1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keziah</td>
<td>6th January</td>
<td>M1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amal</td>
<td>6th January</td>
<td>M3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>7th January</td>
<td>M3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ted</td>
<td>7th January</td>
<td>J3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aria</td>
<td>9th January</td>
<td>P1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>10th January</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xavier</td>
<td>12th January</td>
<td>S1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>12th January</td>
<td>J1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamish</td>
<td>13th January</td>
<td>S2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace</td>
<td>17th January</td>
<td>J3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcell</td>
<td>28th January</td>
<td>J3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William</td>
<td>18th January</td>
<td>J1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jethro</td>
<td>19th January</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia</td>
<td>21st January</td>
<td>J2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eden</td>
<td>22nd January</td>
<td>S2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zachariah</td>
<td>27th January</td>
<td>M1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leo</td>
<td>28th January</td>
<td>P1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler</td>
<td>29th January</td>
<td>J1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eil</td>
<td>30th January</td>
<td>M3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebekañ</td>
<td>30th January</td>
<td>M2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dane</td>
<td>31st January</td>
<td>J1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felicity</td>
<td>2nd February</td>
<td>P1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lara</td>
<td>2nd February</td>
<td>J1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly</td>
<td>3rd February</td>
<td>J1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle</td>
<td>3rd February</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mateo</td>
<td>3rd February</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maidie</td>
<td>4th February</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>4th February</td>
<td>S1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie</td>
<td>5th February</td>
<td>J3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar</td>
<td>6th February</td>
<td>S1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyola</td>
<td>7th February</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvin</td>
<td>9th February</td>
<td>M2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah</td>
<td>10th February</td>
<td>M3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2015 Captains

Congratulations to our School Captains for 2015. We wish them well with their duties during the coming year.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Madelyn

William

ART CAPTAINS

Lily

Ezekiel

Kai

Elizabeth

LIBRARY CAPTAINS

Tia

Gwyn

William

Lily

SPORTS CAPTAINS

Isabel

Connor

Charlotte

Paris

(Barton)        (Deakin)         (Higgins)      (Parkes)

Canteen

As Liz Gardner (Canteen Manager) has had minor surgery recently, the Canteen will not be open until later this term. You will receive further information in upcoming newsletters. We wish Liz well with her recovery.

Student Wellbeing News

Welcome back! — I hope you have all had a great break and are looking forward to another year at St Johns. For those of you who don’t know who I am - my role is Wellbeing Coordinator and I’m here to help support your children in whatever ways are appropriate to ensure that their school experience is the best it can be. This may be listening to their problems and helping them to cope and find a solution, it might mean assisting them in developing social skills or increasing their resilience. I might be helping to build up their strengths and to recognize how they can be a contributing member of the school community, and be a positive influence in their environment. Please come and introduce yourself to me anytime, or contact the School Office if you’d like to meet and talk. My days at the School are Tuesday 1-5pm, and Wednesday and Friday 8.30-4.30pm.

Angela McLean, Wellbeing Coordinator

I’ve also included some information about the parenting programs being conducted this term by various organizations – please contact the organization directly if you would like more information. The full details or all courses will also be posted on the notice board at the school.

REGIONAL PARENTING SERVICE

– 5272 4817

**Bringing Up Great Kids** a six week program for parents of children aged 5-12 yrs. which aims to equip parents with the skills to enhance their patterns of communication with their children, promote more respectful interactions and encourage the development of children’s positive self-identity. February 17th – 7.00-9.00pm, Armstrong Creek.

**Tuning into Kids** a six week parenting program to help children learn to understand and regulate their emotions which in turn leads to becoming more resilient. February 16th- 7.00-9.00pm, Newtown

**ABCD Parenting Pre-Adolecents** - The ABCD program aims to promote healthy and happy relationships within families. Parents of early adolescents are invited to come along and explore the many challenges that confront parents today. March 4th 7.00-9.30pm, Newtown.

**Building Connections** - A 3 hour seminar to help separated parents have healthy & strong relationships with their children. Learn more about the impact of separation and conflict on children; ways of communicating with the other parent; setting
Monday March 16 9.30-12.30pm, Geelong

BETHANY COMMUNITY SUPPORT – 5278 8122

Bringing Up Great Kids - A parenting group using mindfulness and reflection to support parents to review and enhance patterns of communication with their children, to promote respectful interactions and encourage the development of children’s positive self-identity.  February 11- 5.30-7.30 or February 17– 10- 12.00, Hamlyn Heights

Volunteering at School

This is a note for all parents wishing to volunteer at St John’s School or Kindergarten in the classroom, on camps, sports days or with other student activities this year.

In order to volunteer, parents must meet two requirements: 1) have a current Working with Children Check and 2) have completed a one-hour Valuing Safe Communities training session within the past three years. As schools of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA), school staff and volunteers are obliged to meet the requirements of the LCA Safe Place Policy. Valuing Safe Communities (VSC) is a school-specific program to comply with this expectation. This training is valid for three years. If your three years has expired or you are new to St John’s School and Kindergarten, you will be required to complete this session to enable you to assist in events organised by the School.

Valuing Safe Communities Volunteer sessions:
(You only need to complete ONE of these sessions)
Venue: St John’s Lutheran School
Tuesday February 17, 2.15pm-3.15pm OR Friday February 20, 9am-10am.
RSVP or enquiries Catherine.Vanzetten@stjohns.vic.edu.au

Venue: Geelong Lutheran College
Monday February 16, 2pm-3pm OR Thursday, February 19, 9.30am-10.30am.
RSVP deb.skurrie@glc.vic.edu.au

If you want to volunteer but are unable to make any of these sessions, please register at the School Office and we may be able to organise an evening session.

Catherine Van Zetten, Administration Officer

No Nuts Please

Our school has some students who have mild to severe nut allergies. We ask that you please keep in mind how easily an allergic reaction can be triggered by these children being exposed in any way to peanuts or tree nuts. Please do not provide food that may contain nuts to your student.

Division Swimming

The 2015 Bellarine and North Geelong Divisions Primary Schools Swimming Championships’ will be held on Friday 6th March 2015 at the Kardinia Aquatic Centre. We encourage students to participate at this event, provided that they meet the relevant criteria. For further information and notes, please contact the School Office. All relevant information must be provided to Mr Steven Tkaczuk or the School Office by Monday 16th February 2015.

Library News

Welcome to the 2015 school year in the Library! Firstly, I would like to acknowledge our Library Captains for this year:

Tia
Gwyn
William
Lily

Congratulations and we all look forward to their contributions in the Library this year.

For parents who are new to the School, Scholastic Book Club is offered for the children to purchase books. In participating our Library receives free books throughout the year. On average, the school receives around $1,000 worth of books from the generous support of families participating in Book Club. Orders are made from catalogues handed to students usually twice per term.

Scholastic has made some changes to ordering and processing information starting this year. They have introduced a Linked Online Ordering and Payment system (LOOP) which the school has chosen to adopt for the payment of all orders. Therefore, cash or cheques will no longer be accepted and all book orders will need to be done online.

This means that no book orders or payments will need to be lodged at the School.

The books will still be delivered to the School and sent home with the child unless requested by a note from the parent stating that they will be collected from the Office (in case the book is a gift). The parent will be notified by telephone when the order is ready. There will still be a DUE DATE for orders and this will be advised in the Newsletters. No late orders can be accepted after the DUE DATE.

This month’s Book Club (Issue 1) orders are required no later than Friday the 13th February 2015.

Thank you for your co-operation with this change. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year with the children in the Library this year.

Lynn Lytzki, Librarian
This year’s Pako Festa will be held on Saturday 28th February 2015. This year’s theme will be “Different Therefore Equal”. Once again, our School has been invited to participate in the Parade, approximately from 10.30am – 12pm and we believe it is a great opportunity for us to promote St John’s and to be part of the Pakington Street Community. Last year, we had wonderful support with over 60 participating students.

Permission slips will be sent out this week. We shall update you with further details as they come to hand.

Lynn Lytzki

All Kindergarten and School families are invited to come along to the St Johns Family Picnic on Friday 20th February at St Johns oval from 6-8pm. Bring along your picnic supplies and settle in for some family fun and games. Please note this is an alcohol free event.

Parents and Friends

For the first game back in 2015, we had a really good win and we are excited about playing positively for the remainder of the Summer Season!

This week, St Johns Lollipops won against Montpellier Dragonflies - 20 goals to 1.

Rachel

Kelly Sports

Kelly Sports will be commencing for Term 1 on Thursday 5th March at 3.40pm – 4.40pm for children in Year levels P – 6. Enrolment forms are available at the School Office or you can enrol online at www.kellysports.com.au.

Parking

Please be aware of the Parking signs in the streets surrounding St John’s. Traffic by-laws officers regularly patrol the area and will often blitz school zones and issue fines for parking infringements. A reminder to all parents that parking is not permitted in the Early Learning Centres’ carparks, this is reserved for patrons of the Early Learning Centre.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we will be sending out the Term 1 Fee Statements a little later than usual. These statements will be mailed to you in the coming weeks. Our apologies to you for any inconvenience caused.

Welcome back to the new school year. It was delightful to see all the new faces on Monday. I would like to extend a special welcome to all families and staff members joining our College, trusting that our relationship will be mutually enriching and rewarding. We commenced this year with 439 students on our roll (PS – 222, MS – 132, SS – 85). These numbers include five Japanese students on a term program from Meisei High School.

Last year we were quite ambitious and achieved a great deal. This year will be year of consolidation. The key foci for each of the subschools are as follows:

Primary School – The literacy focus will be extended to include writing, Consolidation of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Project, Concert, Debating, and Interschool Sport

Middle School – Further work bridging the Primary to Secondary transition with a focus on new generation learning spaces and associated pedagogy, as well as equipping Year 9 students for Senior School; Enhancing the Pastoral Care and Rite Journey programs introduced last year; Further developing our sustainability programs.

Senior School – Consolidating our VCE and VCAL programs and partnerships with other schools; Building on our VCE culture focusing on students’ work habits; Developing our House culture to further engage students and their affiliation with each other and our College.

On a personal note I will be taking Long Service Leave for Term 2 of this year spending time in Poland, Germany and Brisbane. My replacement will be Mr Gavan Cramer who was previously Principal at Faith Lutheran College.

As you will be aware, last year was a milestone for our College with the graduation of our first Year 12 class of eight VCE and two VCAL students. I am delighted to share with you some of the results from these students. Our College Dux for 2014 is Chantelle and our VCAL high achiever is Ethan. We are very pleased with the results from this group. The average study score for our VCE students was 31 with three scores above 40. All of our students received first round offers from universities with only one student not receiving his first choice. Well done to our students, and in particular thank you to Mrs Tattersall and our teaching staff.

Looking ahead to next week, I commend to our parents the information nights in the Middle and Senior Schools, together with the Primary School profile meetings.

Finally, it is my prayer that members of our College community have a blessed year.

Barry Krueger
Head of School
Free one day workshop for parents and carers of school age children on the autism spectrum.

**Workshop: 2015VICPC1 Location: Geelong**

Like all school-age students, children with autism spectrum disorder benefit from strong, positive relationships between the home and school. Positive Partnerships uses evidence based materials and practical resources to help support these relationships by facilitating workshops for parents and carers.

**What will you learn?**

When you come along to a Positive Partnerships workshop, you will:

- **Develop a greater understanding of the impact of autism on your child, both at school and at home**
- **Understand how to develop effective parent, school and teacher partnerships**
- **Learn specific strategies that will help you:**
  - advocate for your child
  - support your child’s participation at school
  - develop an awareness of ongoing learning needs
- **Receive information about your local school system’s processes**
- **Have the opportunity to network and share strategies with other parents/carers and key community members**
- **Have the opportunity to discuss a range of topics relevant to students with ASD and their families.**

People who work to support families living with autism in your community will also be invited to take part with the goal that there is an ongoing community focus beyond the workshop.

**Workshop details**

**Venue:** Alex Popescu North End, Reg Hickey Stand
Simonds Stadium, Kardinia Park, Geelong VIC 3220

**When:** One day workshop – Tuesday 17 February 2015

**Day 1:** 9.00 am - 4.30 pm (Registration from 8.15 am)

**Registration available from** Tuesday 2 December 2014 and closes two days prior.

Online registrations are preferred directly through our secure website www.positivepartnerships.com.au
Phone the Positive Partnerships Infoline if you have any enquiries: 1300 881 971

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**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.

