Dear St John’s School Community

We are already nearing the end of the students’ second week. Most of us have settled into our routines and are looking forward to the learning and excitement a new year brings. I’ve been extremely impressed when visiting the classrooms how quickly the students of all year levels have settled. The rooms are a hive of activity with students and teachers busily going about their tasks, students putting up their hands to ask questions and displaying appropriate manners, working cooperatively in groups and settling into their required routines.

Hopefully all students have their complete updated uniform, as most of the outstanding orders have now arrived. Thank you for your patience. I have received some positive comments from outside our School Community on how smart the students look.

We need to maintain a high standard and ‘strive to raise the bar’ in all that we do at St John’s.

This week’s Prep Information Night was very well attended and was full of information, ideas, guidance and expectations. Tonight (Thursday February 12) we will host Information Sessions for the rest of the School. Please make the effort to attend these to support the School and ultimately your children. Each student will have received a DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AGREEMENT: Primary School (Years P-6) to be read, understood and signed, then returned to the Class Teacher before they are able to access internet and other IT resources.

We have tentatively booked Senior Constable Robbie Noggler (Youth Resource Officer Western Region) to return to our School for another Cyber – Safety session for our students from Year 3 – 6 during the day and an information session for parents that evening. A parent representative from each school family should attend.

‘In a shock to parents, Australia has been ranked number one for bullying on social networks with one in four children bullied online, new figures show. And more alarmingly is the fact 80 per cent of Australian children under 10 are now active on social networks.’


As you would have read in last week’s newsletter, Pastor Mark Blackwell will soon be taking up a new position in Toowoomba Queensland. The Blackwell family has been a wonderful blessing to our Church and School Communities. The process of advertising to find a replacement for Natalie in the Kinder has been actioned. It is advertised on SEEK and was advertised on Wednesday in the Geelong Advertiser and will be included again in this Saturday’s edition.

Please refer to the list of upcoming dates for your diary especially if you are wanting to assist in the Kindergarten and School, you are require to have a Working With Children Check and completed the Valuing Safe Communities (VSC) training. This lasts for 3 years.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; I will fear no one. The Lord protects me from all danger; I will never be afraid.

Psalms 27:1 (c) GNB

Comment - : When God is for you - who can be against you? He will always protect the poor and destitute who serve Him.

Brian Schultz, Head of School

Canteen

As Liz Gardner (Canteen Manager) has had 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.
Next week marks the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a period of about six weeks before Easter in which Christians from many traditions refocus on Jesus and his journey to the cross through prayer, reading the Bible, personal reflection, repentance, and deliberately letting go of some of the distractions that may have crept into their lives in the previous year. It ends in Holy Week with Jesus’ death on the cross on Good Friday and his triumphant resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Over the past few years, the Lutheran Community in Geelong travelled through Lent together through sharing a common devotion book. The devotions are personal reflections on a Bible text, written by members from our Greater Geelong Lutheran congregations, schools, kindergartens and campsites: Our Redeemer North Geelong, St John’s Lutheran Church, St Paul’s Grovedale, Holy Trinity Leopold, St David’s Freshwater Creek, Colac Lutheran Congregation, St John’s Lutheran School and Geelong Lutheran College, St Paul’s Kindergarten, St John’s Kindergarten and Araluen Lutheran Camp in Anglesea.

In coming days, we will be distributing one devotion book per School and College family. We invite you to read them individually or with your family as part of your own devotional life. Each has a Bible reading, a reflection and a short prayer. Thanks to Pastor Tom and his helpers for collating the devotions, liaising with the printers, and organising the delivery of some 1400 copies.

Jonny Hedt, Pastoral Care Coordinator, Geelong Lutheran College

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.

Lenten Devotions

In the reading this week, Jesus is talking to his followers seeking to reassure them that God is taking care of their needs. Jesus tells them not to worry about ‘what they will eat’ or ‘what they will wear’, that all these things are taken care of by their Father in Heaven. The disciples had lost their source of income when they gave up their jobs to follow Jesus. Their concerns about food, drink and clothing would have been very real in a day of no social security, where famine and drought were genuine possibilities and where they were totally dependent on others to provide for them. So the disciples’ fears about having food, drink and clothing were warranted but they were distracting them from giving their all to helping Jesus.

Today, most of us in Australia do not need to worry about food or clothing – we live in a wealthy and abundant country. However it seems that more children and adults are overcome by worries and unable to live a full and contented life. If Jesus was to speak to you today – he might be talking about different worries that are consuming our thoughts. Worries like what if I lose my job, or what if I get sick, or what happens with there is a terrorist attack. Even worries about our children and their future can be all consuming to us. However, the message Jesus would give you today would be the same as he gave his disciples – “You cannot add any time to your life by worrying about it … So don’t worry about tomorrow. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Tomorrow will have its own worries”.

Angela McLean – Pastoral Care

Devotional Thought - Matthew 6:25-34

In the reading this week, Jesus is talking to his followers seeking to reassure them that God is taking care of their needs. Jesus tells them not to worry about ‘what they will eat’ or ‘what they will wear’, that all these things are taken care of by their Father in Heaven. The disciples had lost their source of income when they gave up their jobs to follow Jesus. Their concerns about food, drink and clothing would have been very real in a day of no social security, where famine and drought were genuine possibilities and where they were totally dependent on others to provide for them. So the disciples’ fears about having food, drink and clothing were

**2015 CLASSES**

This year we have allocated generic class names which match up with our room numbers around the School.

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 Priebbenenow</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>

**Birthdays**

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

- Davina – 21st February – P2
- Eli – 25th February – Red
- Aidan – 25th February – J3
- Joshua – 16th February – M3
- Emilia – 17th February – P2
- Amy Rose – 27th February – S2
- Nicholas – 18th February – Red
- Tom – 18th February – M2
- Stephanie – 19th February – Red
Volunteering at School

This information is 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 enquire 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

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.

School Cross Country

St John’s Lutheran School Cross Country will be held at Eastern Gardens on Friday 27th February 2015.

Permission forms were sent home last week with students. Please return to the Classroom Teacher by Friday 13th February.

Students are required to wear their correct School Sports Uniform, apply and take their own sunscreen, water bottles, snacks, hat and mosquito repellent for personal use.

We do require the assistance of parent helpers (with current Working with Children Check). If you are able to assist please indicate this on the permission slip.

Steve Tkaczuk

Library News

Children have been enjoying the Library at lunchtime. Borrowing Library books will begin again next week.

For parents who are new to the school, Scholastic Book Club is offered for the children to purchase books and 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 parents and students 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 by individuals/parents etc...

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 13th February 2015.

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

Lynn Lytzki, Librarian

Pako Festa

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 were sent out last week. We shall update you with further details as they come to hand.

Lynn Lytzki
Parents and Friends

Sports Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adele</td>
<td>For showing pleasing skills and renewed concentration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gus</td>
<td>For making a great start to his sporting year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace</td>
<td>For always cooperating and doing her best.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talan</td>
<td>For always concentrating and showing a great attitude.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>For always being eager and conscientious.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel</td>
<td>For starting the year well, with great effort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madeleine</td>
<td>For always being cooperative and improving her sporting knowledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie</td>
<td>For an excellent attitude and a great start to the year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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](http://www.kellysports.com.au).

Netball News

Once again, another magnificent netball game was played by the St Johns Lollipops Netball Team. On Wednesday night we played against Leopold Lightning Bolts - the final score was 3 goals to 2, with the winning goal thrown in the last quarter by St Johns - a wonderful effort by the entire team!

Rachel

Basketball News

**St John’s Bobcats**
- Saturday 14th February – 9.50am
- Saturday 21st February – 9.50am
- Saturday 28th February – 10.40am

**St Johns Slamdunks**
- Wednesday 18th February – 4.40pm
- Wednesday 25th February – 5.20pm
- Wednesday 4th March - bye

Netball

After some recent interest from St John’s parents, I am seeking interested players to form a St John’s Grade 3 and 4 Netball team. The team will play on a Wednesday night starting in Term 2 at the Geelong Basketball and Netball Centre in South Geelong. If your child is interested in joining the team or you would like further information, please contact Leeanne on 0409 214 122.

Leeanne

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.

Fete News

Wow! Only 13 weeks to the School Fete! This is a great day for our School Community. It’s the biggest fundraiser for our School and Kindergarten and it’s also great way to show case our School to the wider community and future families.

**Parents:** it’s time to start thinking about how you can help. Whether you can source a donation for our Silent Auction, sort out the cupboards and donate to our second hand stalls or perhaps you’re able to help with calling, walking and wrapping before the day or have time to help on the day. There is something for everyone.

**Silent Auction:** Now is the time for us to gather items for our Silent Auction. If you would like to donate goods or vouchers for the Auction, please contact the School Office.
If you know of a business that would be willing to donate items to us, please collect a letter from the School Office that outlines the request for the donation. A record of businesses that have been contacted is in the School Office. To avoid any multiple requests to one supplier, please check this record prior to making contact with a potential donor.

Any potential business or individual who donates an item will be recognised by the School, both on the day of the Fete and after the Fete.

Lorelle - Fete Coordinator

Geelong Lutheran College

What a wonderful start to 2015. Our new students and the new staff are settling into our School, our students are rising to the challenge, and our intake of Prep and Year 7 students are acquitting themselves particularly well. On Tuesday, I was particularly impressed to see the way our Years 10 and 7 students worked together in the peer support program with our Year 10 students leading the activities. Thank you to our staff who were involved in the planning of this program.

On Wednesday night our Primary School teachers met with parents at profile meeting to exchange information and build those important relationships that underpin students’ learning. For parents who may not have had this opportunity, please contact our staff if you have questions, concerns about your son or daughter settling into the new year or if you have important information our teachers need to know. Last week we published in the newsletter our “Who to Contact” guide. I note that our Parents and Friends met on Tuesday night to plan this year’s activities. I commend their programs to you, highlighting the Picnic on the Green.

Coming to a new school often means coming into and learning a new culture. We speak of Wisdom, Honour and Purpose as our key values. These values (which are described in the students' diaries) are underpinned by scripture and they give our College an intentional Christian focus that extends beyond the devotional and Christian Studies programs. We aim to provide inclusive programs for our students consistent with our open enrolment policy.

Last week I made mention of several uniform issues and carpark routines. It is pleasing to see that they are being addressed. Several students have started riding bicycles to school. We are in the process of providing bike racks. However, having said that, I have some concerns with the lack of infrastructure in our locality and the safety of students riding to school.

Looking ahead to next week, Valuing Safe Communities training will be provided on Monday and Thursday by Jonny Hedt. This training, together with a Working with Children Check is required for parent helpers and volunteers. Please consider ways that you can support our College and your child’s learning by volunteering your time.

Barry Krueger
Head of School

Extend After School Care News

What a fantastic first week back! Not only was it great to see our regular attendees and their families again but we also welcomed some new children and a new assistant, Tayla, to the service. We hope that they continue to come along and have fun at After School Care!

We spent most of the week making our own river under the old oak tree in the playground. It was great to see all of the children working so well together and sharing the jobs around. Well done guys! We also played cricket, practised our skipping skills and played some board games inside.

- Stephanie.

Our Extend Superstar is… Gretel, for having a great first week at After School Care.

Next week’s activities:
- Monday 16 February: Foam Dough
- Tuesday 17 February: Fizzing Lemonade
- Wednesday 19 February: Frozen Honeycomb Slice
- Thursday 20 February: Floating Ball Activity
- Friday 21 February: Freestyle Craft

New Families – Enrol in After School Care
Enrol online – allow 24 hours
Enrolling is quick and easy! Simply set up your own account online via the Parent Portal. Please note it is government regulation that all children must be enrolled BEFORE attending an Extend service. For information on operating hours and fees for your school, visit your After School Care venue or school website.

Enrol now, pay later
The annual enrolment fee per family of $20 is NOT payable until you first use the service. So why not enrol now so you can access the service later? It doesn’t matter if you don’t end up using the service, because you won’t be charged.

Watch this space throughout the term for regular updates from our Extend team!

PARENT PORTAL: extend.com.au

Letter from our Sponsored Child- Alem

“Dear St John’s Lutheran School,
I hope you and your family are very well. Here we are so fine. I spent the rainy season vacation with my family. It rained heavily during this season. The weather is now hot here. I am helping the family in harvesting the crops in my free time. I took classroom tests and scored 9/10 in Biology for example. I look after flowers in our School. I am a member of Children’s Club School too. Thank you so much for helping me through the Childfund project. I have got learning materials. I will write soon again and wish you all the best.

Your sponsored child,
Alem"
The Geelong West St Peters Football & Netball Club has a number of St Johns boys playing within the junior football program and depending on interest, is also looking to establish a Roosters NetSetGo Program for 5-10 year olds, and a girls & youth football team for 9–12 year olds and over 12 year olds respectively. This year promises to be the biggest year yet at the Roosters with record numbers expected to join our various football and netball teams – as well as our successful Auskick program.

Registration Day for junior football will be on Sunday 22 February between 10-11.30am and Friday February 27 between 6pm and 7.30pm. Current players will not need to attend as we will send you the registration renewal details. Auskick (for boys and girls) will commence on Friday April 17th.

Netball trials commence at West Oval on Thursday February 5th and will be held over the following three Thursdays, with U13 commencing at 4.30pm, U15 at 5.00pm and U17 at 5.30pm.

U11 netball players are invited to attend sessions on Tuesday 10th February and Tuesday 17th February at 4.30pm.

For further information please contact the following people:

Junior Football – Paul Codd on 0411 449479 or paul_codd@bingle.com.au

Girls/Youth Girls Football – Fiona Chapman on 0425 865 125 or fchapman@tpg.com.au

Auskick - Simon Heffernan on 0439 304 849 or sheffernan@directrecruitment.com.au

Junior Netball (incl NetSetGo expressions of interest) - Sheri Steenhuis on 0438 823 173 or sheri.steenhuis@hotmail.com

Church Information


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**Help your kids manage their asthma**

**Checklist for Parents**

- **Does your child have an up to date Asthma Action Plan (Asthma Care Plan)?**
  The Asthma Care/Action Plan tells the school how to manage your child’s asthma and what to do if their asthma gets worse. This should be updated & signed by the doctor on an annual basis.

- **Does your child carry their reliever puffer and spacer with them at all times? Or is it readily available to their Carers?**
  Medication needs to be available wherever your child may be (school, child care, sporting field, home).

- **Are you and your child aware of their asthma triggers?**
  Do you take steps to avoid these triggers? Are the Teachers aware of these triggers?

- **Do you listen to what your child says?**
  They will be aware of their asthma symptoms and should be able to tell you when they need their medication.

- **Does your child take their asthma medication correctly?**
  Good technique allows more medication to get into the lungs where it is needed. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like to check your device technique.