Dear St John’s School Community,

I’m looking forward to seeing our whole School Community this Sunday as we celebrate Christ’s birthday at our annual Christmas Carols Evening on our School Oval. The Evening begins with a sausage sizzle (gold coin donation) from 5:30pm. The Carols/Advent evening will begin at 6:30pm. At all times children will need to remain seated either with their parents or in their performing groups. Please bring your own chairs (to be set up around the outside of the back) and rugs (the inside area). The Senior school play equipment will be cordoned off. I would like to thank our staff for their commitment especially Mrs McLean and Mrs Howard for coordinating this year’s event.

On Wednesday I had the pleasure of visiting the Years 5 and 6 Leadership Day at Araluen, our church camp at Anglesea. I had the opportunity to speak to the students on aspects of leadership. I discussed an article by Bernard Marr that suggests 10 Phrases Successful People Avoid from their speech. Eliminating these from our everyday talk will go a long way to eliminating the negative thoughts that go along with them and help us believe that we can all succeed. The ten phrases are as follows: 1. That won’t work 2. I can’t do it 3. Impossible 4. That’s not fair 5. It’s not my fault 6. I might be able to 7. That’s not my job 8. Need 9. I think … 10. I’ll try

A reminder to parents regarding supervision of your children after school. Our two playground play equipment set ups are age appropriate. The Junior playground equipment in the courts area is designed for children from Prep to Year 2 and the Senior playground equipment is designed for Years 3 to 6. I would appreciate your assistance in keeping with these regulations.

Tomorrow is listed as a report writing student free day. It is that time of the year when everything seems to be happening and it can be a stressful time for all of us. Our teachers have been preparing and evaluating their students’ progress throughout the year and are finalising all the relevant information required to complete each student’s report. They have been and will continue to work through this process for the last few weeks of term.

Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name. Psalm 97:12

Comment: Joy! Rejoicing! When we think about the glory of God and the grace that he has shared with us to make us righteous, how can we not rejoice? God is gloriously holy and majestic.

God’s blessings,

Brian Schultz, Head of School

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Upcoming Dates

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<th>Term 4 Week 7 19th November 2015</th>
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<td><strong>2015</strong></td>
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<td>Mon 21st – Jan 18th2016</td>
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<td><strong>FEB</strong></td>
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ABSENCES:

If your Child is to be absent from School, please inform the School Office by 9.30am either by phone 5221 5221, email admin@stjohns.vic.edu.au or by using the SMS service “0418712263”. Please note this number will only send and receive SMS messages - it will not receive telephone calls.

FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER

Pupil Free Day – Report Writing Day

NO SCHOOL

Kindergarten to operate as normal
Devotional Thought

**John 14:15-17, 22-27.**

_Jesus gives us peace of heart and mind._

Have you ever been afraid? Of course you have. We are all afraid at times. But with the increasing amount of unrest in the world at the moment there are more reasons for us feel uncertainty and to have unsettling thoughts about the future. In the Bible reading this week – Jesus tells his disciples that he was going to return his Father and they are afraid. What would happen to them? Would the enemies recognize them as his followers and try to harm them? They didn’t feel safe without Jesus and they were facing lots of uncertainty about the future.

Jesus knew that his disciples were afraid and he offered these words to comfort them. “I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart. Don’t be troubled or afraid. Remember what I have told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me.”

These words were a great comfort to his disciples and they are a great comfort to us today. When Jesus returned to his Father in heaven, he asked the Father to send the Holy Spirit to comfort his disciples until the day when he returned. That includes you and me! What a wonderful gift Jesus has given us – peace of mind and heart. Whenever we find ourselves in the dark or in the storms of life, Jesus is with us. The peace we are offered is knowing we are never alone.

_Angela McLean, Student Wellbeing Coordinator_

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St John’s Community Christmas Carols Evening

To celebrate the start of Advent and the Christmas season, St John’s Lutheran School will host a Community Christmas Carols Evening on the School Oval on **Sunday, November 22nd.** The Carols will begin at 6.30pm and run for about one hour, including a nativity play by students and a Choir performance.

Prior to the Carols, a sausage sizzle will start from 5.30pm and there will be cold drinks available. Gold coin donations for these items 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.

_Angela McLean, Student Wellbeing Coordinator_

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Musical Notes

**Choir**
The Middle and Senior Choirs along with our new Prep -2 Choir (just for the carols) will be performing at the St John’s Community Carols Service on Sunday 22nd November. All students are to wear casual clothes with a ‘splash of Christmas’.

All singers are requested to meet at 6.15pm in the School Hall.

_Debbie Howard, Music Teacher_

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Scholastic Book Club Orders

Scholastic Book Club was sent home earlier last week. Orders are required to be ordered online no later than **today**. All orders need to be placed using Scholastic’s Linked Online Ordering and Payment system (LOOP). No orders or payment will be accepted at School. If you wish to pick up your orders, rather than having them sent home with your child, please leave a message at the School Office.

_Lynn Lytzki, Librarian_

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St John’s Fun Day

**St John’s Fun Day - December 3rd organised by St John’s Senior Students**

Thursday December 3rd is going to be a day set aside to have fun and for the senior students to do something special for the school before they finish. The day will kick off with the infamous St John’s Talent Quest at 9am and then throughout the day the students will join in a variety of activities all planned and prepared by the Year 6 students.

It will be a **casual dress day** and the M.A.D. Hatter social justice group have requested every family bring along a Christmas food hamper item that will be donated to Unitingcare’s Christmas assistance program. This program provides local disadvantaged families with a Christmas Hamper.

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Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following students who are celebrating their birthday over the next week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archie</td>
<td>20th November</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
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<td>Gabriel</td>
<td>24th November</td>
<td>Red</td>
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<tr>
<td>William</td>
<td>25th November</td>
<td>P1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anela</td>
<td>25th November</td>
<td>P2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>25th November</td>
<td>M1</td>
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</tbody>
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Canteen News

The last day for Canteen Lunches for 2015 will be **Wednesday 2nd December**. Orders need to be in on **Tuesday 1st December**.

The Canteen urgently needs more volunteers on a Wednesday for a couple of hours. If you are able to help please leave your name at the School Office.

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2016 Booklists

This year parents will need to order online and the booklist items will be home delivered.

Please order at www.officemaxschools.com.au and select St John’s Lutheran School, Newtown, Vic.

Booklist Information has been handed out to students via their classrooms. The password and other important information is contained in these documents.

Any queries about the Booklists can be directed to Catherine Van Zetten at the School Office.

Student News

Hamish (S2) will be representing our School at the Australian Basketball championships in Adelaide this weekend. Hamish has progressed through a variety of selection trials over the year. We are very excited for Hamish and his family as they embrace this exciting experience. All the best Hamish.

Congratulations to Rose (S1) who has been selected for the Team Future Gymnastics camp that is taking place at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra. This opportunity will see Rose train with the top gymnasts in Australia as well as be coached by National Coach, Peggy Liddick.

Student Verification Forms

Verification forms and other forms were mailed home recently. Please complete these forms and return them to the School Office as soon as possible. It is important to check and update your contact and other information as these may be required for student emergencies and other School requirements.

Years 5 & 6 News

Milo Cricket

On Monday the Years 5 & 6 girls Kanga Cricket team competed in the next level of the competition at Kardinia Park. We played 3 teams, Montpellier, East Geelong and Leopold. We had a great day of competition, the weather was on our side this time and we were all in good spirits. Some fantastic runs were scored and the fielding was outstanding. Unfortunately we didn’t progress to the next level but a great day was had by all.


Leadership Camp at Araluen

This week the Years 5 and 6 travelled to Araluen Lutheran Camp in Anglesea for their annual Leadership Camp. This is a day of team building games, observation and feedback, advice on how to be a good leader, lots of giggles, fun and the yummiest chicken wraps ever!!!! It was a wonderful day and we all came back knowing a little more about responsibility, sharing, communication and friendship.

Mr Tkaczuk and Mrs Foott

Kindergarten News

We would like to remind you that Kinder will finish at 1pm on Wednesday 25th & Thursday 26th November. This is so the children will be well rested for the concerts. The children will only be having a snack at Kinder that day.

Kinder Staff will be at the Community Carols Service this Sunday night and the children will be performing an item. Please come along and enjoy a fun evening.

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER
25th Yellow Group Christmas Concert - Children to arrive at 5.30pm, Concert to start at 6pm
26th Red Group Christmas Concert - Children to arrive at 5.30pm, Concert to start at 6pm

DECEMBER
8th Red Group End of Year Party
9th Yellow Group End of Year Party

Raelene Roede, Kindergarten Team Leader

SJL – Preloved Supplies Facebook Page

Check out the Facebook page for buying or selling preloved St John’s uniforms – SJL Preloved Supplies.

Wendy

Basketball News

St John’s Bobcats Basketball Team.
Saturday 21st November at 9.50am
Saturday 28th November Bye
Saturday 5th December at 11.30am
Leeanne
Netball News

St John’s Swifts

St John’s Swifts were truly amazing on Wednesday night with their spontaneous teamwork. We played against the Pink Flamingo’s (they were more like the "Pink Giants") – and we didn’t exactly win. But the efforts up and down the court, with some superb goal throwing by our shooters were totally awesome – it all makes a true team effort. GO SWIFTS!

Rachel

Parents & Friends News

The P&F AGM was held this past Tuesday evening. Thank you to all who attended. We acknowledged the hard work of the 2015 executive committee and discussed plans for 2016.

A new committee was elected and positions are as follows

President- Sally
Vice President- Symone
Secretary- Sarah and Rachel
Treasurer- Stuart

Two Kinder Representatives positions and the role of Fete Coordinator remain vacant at this stage. If you are interested please contact Sally for more info. Please note that roles can be shared.

The P&F is collecting feedback from the School Community and soon will be sending out a short survey via Survey Monkey. Please spend a few minutes taking part.

Sally, Parents & Friends President

Playgroup News

It would be great to see you at Monday Mingle this term – a friendly and informal playgroup for children under school age. We meet between 9 and 10am on a Monday morning in the School Hall, and have lots of fun planned for this term including the following:

November 23 - Scratchy Christmas card making
November 30 - Outside play at the tennis courts playground - Water balloon fun and magnetic Christmas clip craft
December 7 - 9am till 10.30am - Monday Mingle Christmas Party – Christmas tree craft, Christmas stories and songs ... and a visit from a very special, very jolly visitor! Please bring a small plate of morning tea to share.

On those mornings we are meeting outside, please bring a hat. Otherwise, all you need to bring is a smile (and we can probably help you with that, if it seems hard 😊). If you have any queries, call Callie or Vicki

Oxygen Music Tuition 2016

ENROL NOW FOR 2016

Oxygen Tuition with a reputation spanning over 33 years is offering private tuition in Piano, Guitar and Drum. Lessons are held at the School during school hours using a rotating roll system so that the student is not absent from the same class each week.

If you have an interest in your child pursuing music lessons, please come into the School Office and pick up an enrolment form.

News from our Sponsored Child - Alem

To my Dear Sponsor,

How are you doing? I’m very pleased that I stood 5th out of 42 students in our class. This year I was in Year 8. This year I most enjoyed Biology. I have taken Grade 8 regional exam and am waiting the result.

Alem Assefa

Be Ready to Volunteer in 2016

Want to get involved in your child’s class excursions, activities and camps next year?

In order to volunteer at St John’s Lutheran School or Kindergarten, parents must meet both of the following requirements:

1) Have a current Working with Children Check. Please apply online and bring your card to the office so we can take a copy for our records.
2) 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, (such as parents of Prep or Kindergarten beginning next year) you will be required to complete this session to enable you to assist in events organised by the school. The next planned VSC session for volunteers is a morning session at Geelong Lutheran College. There will be further day and evening sessions early next year.

Valuing Safe Communities Volunteer Session
Venue: Geelong Lutheran College Tuesday December 8th from 9.05am-10.05am. Please RSVP to office@glc.vic.edu.au
Geelong Lutheran College News

Tonight our second cohort of Year 12 students will graduate from GLC. Their exams may be complete but their learning will still continue but in other contexts. We wish these students well and pray that they take our values of Wisdom, Honour and Purpose with them.

Next week’s theme will be one of ‘transition and change.’ We will welcome back next year’s Prep students for the second of their orientations, our Year 11 students will start their Year 12 VCE and VCAL subjects, and our Year 9 students will have their ‘homecoming’ as part of the Rite Journey Program. In the times of transition and change it is important that we develop strong networks to support and focus students. This is the rationale behind days such as the “Year 11 Connections Day”.

Parents of the College will only be too aware of the traffic congestion at the intersection of Burvilles Road and the SurfCoast Highway. This matter has been raised with VicRoads and the City of Greater Geelong. Vehicle counts have been completed and a safety audit will be undertaken. These current difficulties are part of the growing pains associated with a developing area, and in the meantime, I ask our parents to exercise both patience and caution.

As the end of the year draws to a close, I would like to remind parents of the Report Writing Day tomorrow. Additionally, as a date claimer, our Awards and Thanksgiving Night will take place on Tuesday, December 8 at Costa Hall, starting 7:00pm. The evening has been reformatted so that we will be able to see more of our students’ good work. Please mark this date into your calendar.

Barry Krueger, Head of School

Extend After School Care News

WEEKLY RE-CAP
This week children began to move into festive activities as they made Christmas themed shortbread, festive art decoration and origami stars which helped to enhance their creativity skills and imagination while getting the children into the festive spirit. Children also had fun making clay hand print plaques and manipulating play dough which works on their fine and gross motors skills while incorporating science and maths learning into fun activities.

It is a Pupil Free Day on November 20th, unfortunately as we had insufficient numbers (less than 10) we are unable to run a pupil free day program.

EXTEND SUPERSTAR
Our Extend Superstar is: Milla
For her music contributions and helpfulness throughout the week

NEXT WEEK’S ACTIVITIES

| Monday      | Origami – Christmas Stars and Decorations |
| Tuesday     | Making Popping Chocolate Truffles         |
| Wednesday   | Clay Hand Plaques                         |
| Thursday    | Making Pop Choc Truffles and Shortbread   |
| Friday      | Making Christmas Wreaths                  |

SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAM BOOKINGS ARE OPEN AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU!
Booking deadlines:
- Book for December by Friday 27 November
- Book for January by Monday 21 December

Our holiday program bookings are open and there’s a local one near you. All Extend’s holiday programs are open to primary school aged boys and girls.

We have heaps of fun activities planned these school holidays and can’t wait for you to attend! Participate in an epic egg drop challenge, make your own burlap pillow, and play lots of sport including cricket and basketball! Join in on all this and more at Extend’s Summer Holiday Program.

To check out what’s on and where your local program is, visit our website at extend.com.au and book via the Parent Portal.

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If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas such as cultural recipes, nutrition please come to the multi-purpose building to organise a chat with me.

Have a fantastic weekend

Traci

Church Information

St John’s Lutheran Church, 165 Yarra Street, Geelong. Sunday worship 9am*. Sunday school runs every week during school term. Office: 5221 5121.

Christmas Kids Church Dec 6th– St John’s Lutheran Church
You are invited to join us for a morning of celebration as we immerse ourselves in the story of baby Jesus in drama, song and craft. There will be dress ups for the kids and plenty opportunities to get involved. Service begins at 9am with morning tea to follow.

Please join us also for a carols and readings service on Christmas Eve, Dec 24, beginning at 7pm.


Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Mollers Lane, Leopold. Worship, 11am every Sunday.

*Please note that St John’s, Holy Trinity and St Paul’s churches are in the process of calling new pastors. A combination of pastors, retired pastors and lay readers are leading these services.

Community News

Information is available on our School Noticeboard for upcoming events in the area. Take a look if you are interested.

- Gateways - Volunteers Needed – Christmas Wrapping
- Christmas Wonderland – Dec 5th at Showgrounds
Helping kids deal with horrifying news

Graphic images have been brought into our living rooms and onto our devices via the media over the last few days, and will continue to do so in the immediate future.

But what about the impact of the event and the subsequent media coverage on children and young people?

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as terrorist attacks. In reality we can’t do this.

So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when such events fill the airwaves and the consciousness of society?

Here are some ideas:

1. Reassure children that they are safe. The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don’t understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.

2. Explain what happened. Sounds obvious but it’s important not to simply assume that children and young people understand what’s happened. Be calm and stick to the facts, using a map to show older children where it happened.

3. Be available. Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.

4. Help children process what they see and hear, particularly through television. Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding.

5. Support children’s concerns for others. They may have genuine concerns for the suffering that will occur and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heartwarming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.

6. Let them explore feelings beyond fear. Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions.

7. Avoid keeping the television on all the time. The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitising to others.

8. Be aware of your own actions. Children will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening but it should not dominate their lives.

Children’s worlds can be affected in ways that we can’t even conceive of so adults need to be both sensitive to children’s needs and mindful of what they say and how they act in front of children.

In difficult times, it is worth remembering what adults and children need most are each other.