**Dear St John’s School Community,**

What an amazing evening we had at the Community Christmas Carols Evening on our School Oval last Sunday. Well over 500 people attended to see and hear the Christmas story once again (especially the awesome sound effects and musical grabs) as we lead into the first Sunday in Advent this weekend. Congratulations to all who were involved in any way. Our three Choirs - Kindergarten, Preps to Year 2, and Years 3 to Year 6 were magnificent. I would like to thank Mrs Deb Howard and Mrs Angela McLean for coordinating the evening. Below is a photo from the band’s point of view that included past and present students.

The Oval was a popular place this week. As I was walking around the school I noticed Mr Sell’s PE group battling it out in a tug o’ war. There was certainly some spirited but friendly competition going on.

Our Evacuation drill this week was supervised by Dynamiq Emergency Management as part of our yearly program that involves an emergency drill each term. The scenario was given to us that there was a fire breaking out in the admin area and we had to evacuate the School to the oval area using the Hall as a communications centre. Obviously we couldn’t use our PA systems for communication purposes so we had to rely on word of mouth. We completed all required checks and the evacuation drill was all over in 10 minutes.

**God is on Your Side**

*God is on your side, and if He is for you, it really does not matter who is against you. The giants may be big, but God is bigger. You may have weaknesses, but God has strength. You may have sin in your life, but God has grace. You may fail, but God remains faithful.*

Joyce Meyer

God’s blessings

Brian Schultz, Head of School
Devotional Thought

Signs!

The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (i.e. God with us). Isaiah 7:14

It’s not hard to miss the fact that Christmas will soon be here! The big Christmas tree in Corio Bay is up and shining. There are decorations and lights everywhere! These are all “signs” that point to Christmas!

Many years before Jesus was born, God promised to give his people a “sign.” That sign was Jesus – the Son of God, born as a human baby! He pointed to something much bigger than Christmas: the Good News that God had come to rescue his people from their sin and its eternal consequences. Jesus was the “Light” that God would ‘turn on’ to overcome the darkness in our world. He would give us hope beyond this world; of a time when there is only goodness and light.

Jesus said that, before that time, there are other “signs” for us to take notice of. The bad things that happen in the world are also “signs.” God doesn’t cause them, but he asks us to take notice of them.

These “signs” help us not to miss some important things: that God has prepared a better place for us; that there is hope in the midst of this world’s darkness, that we should put our trust in Jesus; that Jesus the “Light of the World” is coming again; and that we should be ready for him when he does.

Pastor Lester Priebbenow, ‘Our Redeemer’, North Geelong

Community Christmas Carols Evening

Thank you to everyone who was involved in the Community Carols Evening – parents, students, teachers and musicians. It was a fantastic way to start celebrating the Christmas season, singing Carols, retelling the Christmas story and coming together as a community. The night was memorable and lots of fun.

Angela McLean, Student Wellbeing Coordinator

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>
<th>Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saxon</td>
<td>November 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>M3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlette</td>
<td>November 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>M1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Savannah</td>
<td>November 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>M2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucille</td>
<td>November 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Grace</td>
<td>December 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Ned</td>
<td>December 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jarrod</td>
<td>December 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>S2</td>
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Closing Service –
Wednesday 9th December 2015

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 2016 and to farewell those who are graduating or leaving St John’s. The Service will commence at 7pm sharp so we request that parents have their children at the Barabool Hills Baptist Church, Province Blvd, Highton at 6.45pm in readiness for them to be seated at 6.50pm. All students are required to attend. Students are to be dressed in full summer uniform.

2016 Dates

The following are important dates in 2016:

Term 1: Monday February 1st – Thursday March 24th
- Monday 14th March – Labour Day Holiday

Term 2: Tuesday 12th April – Friday 24th June
- Monday 11th April – Curriculum Day (No Students)
- Monday 25th April – ANZAC Day
- Friday 10th June – Report Writing Day (No Students)
- Monday 13th June – Queen’s Birthday

Term 3: Monday 11th July – Friday 16th September
- Thursday 18 & Friday 19th August – Curriculum Days (No Students)

Term 4: Monday 3rd October – Friday 9th December
- Friday 14th October – Geelong Show Day
- Friday 18th November – Report Writing Day (No Students)

These dates are correct at the time of printing.

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.

If you order on or before 1st December you will receive free home delivery.

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

Kindergarten News

Upcoming Events

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

Raelene Roede, Kindergarten Team Leader

Art Awards

This week’s Kaiser Gift Vouchers go to Leo Rong (P1) & Sibiya De Noronha (M1).

Art Awards are presented to:

| Bowen | M2 | For an amazing painting of an owl for the Level 3 mural. |
| Will  | P1 | For carefully gluing metallic paper onto a cardboard cone to make a Christmas tree. |
| Tia   | S2 | For painting a great design about Geelong on a white tile. |
| Emma  | J2 | For drawing an interesting habitat for her printed minibeast. |

Glenda Partridge, Art Teacher
Basketball News

St John’s Bobcats Basketball Team.
Saturday 28th November Bye
Saturday 5th December at 11.30am
Saturday 12th December – 9.50am
Saturday 30th January – 9.50am

We currently have 4 eager players for this new St Johns team and are looking for more players to help create the team.
The team would play in the 7 & Under competition at GBNC on Saturday morning playing at 9am.
If you have any questions or your child wishes to join this team please contact Leanne on 0409 214 122.

Leeanne

Netball News

Last night the Swift’s opponents were a no show, so in actual fact the “Swifts” were classed as WINNERS! Just for fun, we played an enjoyable game against the Pink Flamingo’s (known to us as the “Pink Giants”) – so we had a good fun all round practice match with each other. Our team members played with so much enjoyment and their teamwork efforts that are being transformed are simply amazing to watch and listen to. Two more games to go till the end of first half of the summer season - GO SWIFTS!

Rachel

Canteen News

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

In 2016 the Canteen will need more volunteers on a Wednesday for a couple of hours. If you are able to help please leave your name at the School Office

Parents & Friends News

Run Geelong 2015
The Geelong community raised over $340,000 for the Geelong Hospital on Sunday with 11552 people taking part in Run Geelong 2015.
It was a great event for all ages and abilities. We had 36 people run walk or roll as of part of our St Johns team. Our team wasn’t quite large enough for us to qualify for a sports equipment voucher. We will be there again next year and hopefully we can make it to 50 team members in order to receive some free sports equipment for our School.

P&F Survey Soon
Keep an eye out in your inbox for a survey from Survey Monkey to get some feedback on School events to help the P&F plan and fundraise in the future. Please take a moment to complete it. It will only take a few minutes and we really appreciate your input.

1st Day of School Morning Tea
Don’t forget The P&F will once again be hosting a Morning tea on the first day of school next year. It will be held in the Quadrangle from 9am. It’s a great chance to catch up with friends, welcome new families and celebrate the holidays being over!!

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 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.

SJL – Preloved Supplies Facebook Page

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

Wendy
Last week our second class of Year 12 students graduated from Geelong Lutheran College. It was an inspiring night, old stories were retold, memories relived and the moment celebrated. I have always felt for this group of students, who so often in these early years, were always “second” to last year’s graduating class. However, the achievements and contributions of this group of students are no less important. Well done! Congratulations, and go “…with the blessing of God and the College community to live out [your new] purpose and use your God-given talents to shape and enrich the world.” Thank you to Mrs Tattersall and all our staff who have been involved with the formation of these fine young men and women.

Last Friday our teachers commenced writing students’ academic reports. Primary School students will receive their reports and STARS journal in the last week of this term. Reports for Middle and Senior School students will be delivered at the end of this term electronically through PAM.

Today our Years 5&6 Debating Team will compete in the state level competitions, and tonight our Year 9 students will complete their “Rite Journey.” Congratulations to these students for their persistence and every success.

The Awards and Thanksgiving Service will be held at Costa Hall on Tuesday, December 8 starting at 7:00pm. At this Service we give thanks for the year, share in the year’s highlights and acknowledge our students. This year we will be showcasing some of our student’s work from the Arts domain. Gratitude and appreciation are very important values and the attendance of students is expected. Year 12 students, who have now departed the College, are very welcome to attend this function, as I hope they will do in future years.

Jonny Hedt, Pastoral Care
**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. The 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.

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**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**
- **Skylark Circus Summer camp – Trafalgar East**
- **Crafty Christmas Event – LaTrobe Terrace Church of Christ – Dec 11th 4pm – 8pm**