PLEASE NOTE: Starting next Thursday the School Newsletter will be published every fortnight and emailed out to families. The alternate weeks you will receive an email listing upcoming dates.

**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.

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**Upcoming Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Term 1 Week 1 2nd February 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEB TUES 7th</td>
<td>Prep Parent Information Night 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI 10th</td>
<td>School Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MON 13th</td>
<td>Monday Mingle Resumes</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUES 14th</td>
<td>Canteen Orders Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED 15th</td>
<td>Canteen Resumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED 15th</td>
<td>Scholastic Book club online orders close.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED 15th</td>
<td>Parent Information Night. Years 1-6 6.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MON 20th</td>
<td>P &amp; F Meeting 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI 24th</td>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 27th</td>
<td>Pako Festa</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAR THURS 2nd</td>
<td>Kitchen Garden Volunteer Info Session - 9am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MON 6th – FRI 17th</td>
<td>Swimming lessons start. Year 1 – 6 Students only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURS 9th</td>
<td>Cybersafety Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MON 13th</td>
<td>LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED 15th</td>
<td>Preps resume Wednesday classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED 15th</td>
<td>Division Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI 17th</td>
<td>National Day of Action against Bullying</td>
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<tr>
<td>MON 20th</td>
<td>P &amp; F Meeting 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUES 21st</td>
<td>Years 5 &amp; 6 Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI 24th</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MON 27th</td>
<td>Years 3 &amp; 4 Serindip Sanctuary Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURS 30th</td>
<td>Bravehearts Presentation Prep – Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI 31st</td>
<td>End of Term 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Head of School**

Greetings St John’s Community,

Welcome to students and families new to the School. May you be enriched and inspired by your experiences at St John’s, as we will by your presence. Welcome back to current students as you continue to grow in faith and as active young citizens. Please include new students into your friendship groups and into the St John’s family.

Welcome to our new Integration Aides, Geraldine Costa and Rachel Brady who have started this week.

I am excited about the prospect of continuing the great work and service of Brian Schultz.

As you know, I am the interim Head of School for Semester 1, while the Council seeks the best candidate to fill the permanent HOS position. You will find a seamless transition into my leadership and later, into the permanent role.

I spent 22 years as a secondary teacher and leader in the State system in the Wimmera, 9 years as a teacher including 7 years as Deputy Principal at Luther College, Croydon. Then 8 years Principal of Faith Lutheran College in the Barossa Valley, SA. Since retiring in 2014, I have undertaken interim leadership roles at GLC, in Queensland and now at St John’s.

I am passionate about what happens in the classroom including the relationships formed, the activities undertaken, differentiation of the curriculum, flexibility and diversity of teaching and the overall level of engagement of students.

I am also passionate about building respectful relationships among all members of the St John’s family.

St John’s has a proud and distinguished history, founded on Christ’s love and sacrifice, strong leadership, the committed service of staff and not in the least, the loyal and dedicated contributions of students and families. Our strong values to LEARN, IMAGINE and GROW will continue into the future as staff and families relate, consult and pray together.

Thanks to staff who worked over the summer break in the office and around the grounds and classrooms. Teaching staff and Aides began their year last Monday by joining with GLC staff in worship, spiritual development, preparation activities and fellowship. Follow up meetings, CPR training and planning for the year took place at St John’s on Tuesday and Wednesday.

I was delighted to worship with staff, students and family members during the Opening Chapel this morning (Thursday 2 February). There was much excited chatter as holiday experiences were discussed. Thanks to Mr Jewson for leading the Service.

I encourage you to introduce yourself and to tell me your story and that of your children.

May God’s wisdom, love, care and strength be with us all in 2017.

Gavan Cramer, Head of School
Principal’s Message

I would like to extend a hearty welcome to all new families at St John’s and especially to our new Preps as they start their educational journey with us. We also welcome other new students who are starting at other levels throughout the School. I trust that the summer break was relaxing and rejuvenating for you and your family and you managed to find some time to relax and reflect before the hectic schedule of 2017 takes off.

2017 will certainly be a new and exciting year for St John’s. Whilst we will miss Brian Schultz as Head of School and get used to school life without Brian around the place, we are excited to welcome Mr Gavan Cramer to the School as interim Head of School for Semester One. Our School Council is currently reviewing our leadership structure across our two Schools and we intend to advertise for a replacement for St John’s by the end of February/early March. In the meantime, take the opportunity to make yourself known to Gavan and to welcome him into our community.

During 2016 the School Council also held some masterplanning sessions to investigate the future needs of St John’s Lutheran School and Kindergarten. The Council is keen to revisit this in 2017 and will be focussing on the Kindergarten facility and its funding, as well as looking at ways of improving some of the physical aspects of the School, particularly its presentation to the public along Aberdeen and Pakington Streets. The Council will also be developing a new Strategic Plan for the School for the next four years.

God’s blessing to you and your family during 2017.

Gary Jewson, Principal

Devotional Thought

Losing Jesus! Luke 2:48-49

Getting lost is not much fun. It is scary for the person being lost and actually quite frightening for everyone else.

As a young child I managed to get myself lost a number of times and once I recall, in Adelaide, my older brother had reluctantly been given charge of me and was busy looking at things that interested him. While he was distracted, I disappeared to find a toy store. He finally found me of course, and was rather angry with me for wandering off. I told him that I didn’t think he had to worry, I wasn’t lost. He should have known I’d be at the toy shop!

Our Bible reading today recounts a similar experience that Jesus had. Mary and Joseph had lost Jesus and frantically went looking for him. They finally found him sitting in the temple. When Jesus’ parents found him, he said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?"

Just as my brother got distracted and lost me, sometimes we too can lose Jesus. As a new year is about to begin and all sorts of new things start to happen we gradually get busier and busier and ultimately forget about him. Then one day, we come to our senses and realize that he is gone out of our lives. It’s at that moment that we need to go back to the place we left him because that is where we will find him, right there waiting for us!

Gary Jewson, Principal

Welcome

Welcome to our new Kindergarten and Prep children who have started at St John’s this year. We also welcome the following students who have commenced in other year levels:

- Airlei
- Leni
- Jocelin

We hope your time at St John’s will be a blessing to you all.

Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following students who celebrated their birthdays over the School Holidays or who will celebrate in the coming week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olivia</td>
<td>Jan 1st</td>
<td>J2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viktoria</td>
<td>Jan 6th</td>
<td>S1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amali</td>
<td>Jan 6th</td>
<td>S1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>Jan 7th</td>
<td>S3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis</td>
<td>Jan 8th</td>
<td>RED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aria</td>
<td>Jan 9th</td>
<td>J3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>Jan 12th</td>
<td>M1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zara</td>
<td>Jan 14th</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace</td>
<td>Jan 17th</td>
<td>M1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcel</td>
<td>Jan 18th</td>
<td>M1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William</td>
<td>Jan 18th</td>
<td>M2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>Jan 18th</td>
<td>J5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia</td>
<td>Jan 21st</td>
<td>M3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrianna</td>
<td>Jan 23rd</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zachariah</td>
<td>Jan 27th</td>
<td>S3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leo</td>
<td>Jan 28th</td>
<td>J1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranura</td>
<td>Jan 29th</td>
<td>M3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler</td>
<td>Jan 29th</td>
<td>M3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eli</td>
<td>Jan 30th</td>
<td>S3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebekah</td>
<td>Jan 30th</td>
<td>S2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dane</td>
<td>Jan 31st</td>
<td>M2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lara</td>
<td>Feb 2nd</td>
<td>M1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felicity</td>
<td>Feb 2nd</td>
<td>J1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly</td>
<td>Feb 3rd</td>
<td>M2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mateo</td>
<td>Feb 3rd</td>
<td>J5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna</td>
<td>Feb 4th</td>
<td>J1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maidie</td>
<td>Feb 4th</td>
<td>J1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sienna</td>
<td>Feb 4th</td>
<td>RED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie</td>
<td>Feb 5th</td>
<td>M2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2017 Dates

The following are important dates in 2017:

**Term 1:** Thursday February 2nd – Friday March 31st
- Monday 13th March – Labour Day Holiday

**Term 2:** Wednesday 19th April – Friday 30th June
- Monday 17th April – Easter Monday
- Tuesday 18th April – Curriculum Day, (No Students)
- Tuesday 25th April – ANZAC Day
- Friday 2nd June – Report Writing Day (No Students)
- Monday 12th June – Queen’s Birthday

**Term 3:** Monday 17th July – Friday 22nd September
- Thursday 17th & Friday 18th August – Curriculum Days (No Students)

**Term 4:** Monday 9th October – Wednesday 13th December
- Friday 20th October – Geelong Show Day
- Friday 17th November – Report Writing Day (No Students)

These dates are correct at the time of printing.

School Captains 2017

Congratulations to our School Captains for 2017. We wish them well with their duties during the coming year.

Ned (S3)  
Imani (S3)

We also congratulate the following students:

**House Captains:**
- Barton – Claudia (S3)
- Deakin – Isaac (S3)
- Higgins - Lucille (S2)
- Parkes – Eli (S3)

**Library Captains:**
- Sibiya (S3)
- Arthur (S3)
- Viktoria (S1)
- Rebekah (S2)

**Art Captains:**
- Ruby (S3)
- Luca (S1)
- Elizabeth (S3)
- Lewis (S2)

Parent Information Nights

In an effort to ensure that we communicate effectively with all parents of our School Community, we have organised two Parent Information Sessions for 2017. They are early in the school year as we feel that there is important information that parents and caregivers require at the start of the year to ensure teachers and parents/caregivers are able to begin an ongoing partnership of support for all students and families in our St John’s School Community.

**Prep Information Evening** is on Tuesday 7th February at 7pm in the Prep rooms. (This is only for parents of Prep students)

**Years 1-6 Information Evening** is on Wednesday 15th February at 6:30pm. This session will run in a similar format as last year, commencing with a whole school session, followed by year level sessions. Refreshments will be offered to parents between sessions, allowing for some valuable social interaction. The times for this evening are as follows:-

- 6:30 – All parents
- 7:00 – Years 1/2 parents
- 7:30 – Years 3/4 parents
- 8:00 – Years 5/6 parents

Please make an effort to attend the session/s which are relevant to your children as we will be passing on some important information at these times.

Student Wellbeing News

**Welcome back to School**

I’m hoping that today you return to the crazy school routine feeling refreshed, rested and ready for a change. Thank you to our wonderful Parents and Friends Group for putting on a morning tea, I hope the welcome leaves with a sense that St John’s Lutheran school is a community of genuine concern and care for each other that extends beyond the classroom. I’m excited about another year of Kidsmatter implementation that carries with it the theme – Every Face has a Place.  Our welcome to you includes an invitation to join your child’s class for a breakfast next Friday – it’s a chance to meet your child’s ‘class community’ and to get to know other parents as well as meet their teacher.

**Lunchtime Activities – Starting Next Week Feb 6**

A part of our Kidsmatter implementation has been to ensure there are a variety of ways for students to mix and socialize at lunchtime. As well as the usual opportunities we have included the following:

- Monday – Chalk Drawing, Library Open
  Chalk Drawing – top of Tennis Courts
- Tuesday – Hall Games, Puzzles and Challenges in Hall, Library Open
  Board games, strategy games, blocks, puzzles and other fun activities.
- Wednesday – Water Play, Library
- Thursday – Chalk Drawing, Chess and Quiet Reading - Library
  Chalk Drawing – above the Junior Playground
- Friday – Lego Club – ICT Room
  Additional Outside Options – Outdoor Reading Space, Skipping and Dress Ups

**Parenting Programs in the Geelong Region**

There are a range of Parenting Programs in the Geelong Region ranging from Positive Parenting Program, Tuning into Kids, Little Kids need big Dads.

For more information see the following link: http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/pARENTING/article/item/8cb447435d979a.aspx

Also please check the School Noticeboard for regular updates.

Angela McLean, Wellbeing Coordinator

Picking Up and Dropping Off Children at School & Kindergarten

Please be reminded about the drop off/pick up zones in Aberdeen Street and Pakington Street. These zones are designated as dropping off and picking up only. Please do not leave your car parked and unattended in these zones as this leads to further congestion in the already busy streets. We also request that you be mindful of residents, by not parking in front of driveways.
This year’s Pako Festa Parade is on Saturday February 25th with the theme being ‘Food’.

Our School has been invited to participate and we believe it is a great opportunity for us to promote St John’s and be a part of the Pakington St community.

The Parade organisers have restricted the number of participants in each parade application. Therefore we can only offer 40 places to students in Years 1 – 6.

A form will be sent home to each family in Years 1 – 6 on Monday Feb 6th. Please return as soon as possible if you wish your child to be involved. As explained above we can only offer 40 places so once the list is full we will not be in a position to accept additional students.

All students will be required to be in full Summer Uniform.

Lynn Lytzki, Librarian

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. Book Club has a Linked Online Ordering and Payment system (LOOP) which the school uses for the payment of all orders. All book orders will need to be done online by individuals/parents. The books are delivered to the School and sent home with the child unless requested by 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 be a DUE DATE for orders and this will be advised in the Newsletters.

No late orders can be accepted after the DUE DATE.

The Scholastic Book Club will be sent home Monday 6th February. Orders are required to be ordered online no later than Wednesday 15th February.

Lynn Lytzki, Librarian

Welcome to the 2017 school year in Library!

Welcome, Wilkommen, Bienvenue, Benvenuto, Bula to Library.

Parents are always welcome to come in and say hello and have a look at some children’s books in Library. Guten Tag, Bonjour, Hola, Ciao, G’day.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge our Library Captains for this year:
Sibiya (S3)
Arthur (S3)
Viktoria (S1)
Rebekah (S2)

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

Lynn Lytzki, Librarian

Monday Mingle starts up again on Monday 13th Feb from drop off time til 10.30am in the School Hall. Monday Mingle is a relaxed, informal playgroup for any babies/toddlers/preschoolers and their parents/carers and a lovely way to start the week after school drop off. Each week there are things to make and do, lots of free play, a fruit snack, songs and stories and plenty of friendly faces.

Come for the whole session or even just a part. Monday Mingle is supported by St John’s Lutheran Church. You don’t need to bring anything, just come as you are. If you don’t have a small child to bring, you are still most welcome to drop in for a cuppa and a chat. Monday Mingle is also open to families who are not associated with St John’s School, so if you have a friend or neighbour that might be interested, please spread the word.

For further information, contact Callie & Johanna

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For further information, contact Callie & Johanna
The School Canteen will resume **Wednesday February 15th** and will continue to operate every Wednesday until the end of Term. A menu will be attached to next week’s newsletter email.

**PLEASE NOTE: Canteen Day is on Wednesday but orders need to be received on the Tuesday before.**

Please write detailed orders on the front of an envelope, along with your child’s name and class and place the correct money in the envelope. Students are to place their envelopes in the Classroom Tub in their classroom on Tuesday.

Lunches will be delivered to the classrooms on Wednesdays. Frozen items may need to be collected from the Canteen.

The Canteen will only be offering pre-ordered lunches. It will not be open for counter sales.

**Sorry, no late orders can be accepted.**

**Canteen Volunteers**

Expressions of interest for volunteers are being sought. The Canteen can only operate with the generosity of volunteer helpers. Please consider if you are able to help for a few hours. Please leave your name at the School Office.

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**St John’s Swifts**

WOW - what a start to the second half of the Summer Season with the Swifts coming out on top from their first game back of 2017 against Central Flames. Final score was 13 goals to 5.

The Swifts teamwork was certainly present throughout the entire game, with rosy red faces and smiles at the final siren.

Well done Swifts. See you all back at training next Tuesday afternoon.

Rachel

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**Meals for Families in Need**

From time to time families in our School and Kindergarten community require meals to help them through some difficult events – be it illness, death or other trauma. We currently have a group of families who help out during these times. Sometimes it is just a one off meal that is required and other times it is ongoing meals across the school year via a roster. If you are willing to help out and join the meal roster, could you please forward your name and email address to Michelle.

There are disposable containers available for meals as well as a freezer for storage in Angela McLean’s office so that we can store a small bank of ready available meals. If you know of a School or Kindergarten family in need could you please contact Angela or email angela.mclean@stjohns.vic.edu.au so that the meals can be arranged.

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**Netball News**

**St John’s Swifts**

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Well done Swifts. See you all back at training next Tuesday afternoon.

Rachel

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**Church Information**

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


**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**, Mollers Lane, Leopold. Worship, 11am Every Sunday with Holy Communion.

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**Parents & Friends News**

A huge welcome to our entire School & Kindergarten Community for 2017.

It was wonderful to see so many parents, friends & staff join us for our Welcome Morning Tea.

There was certainly a great vibe, lots of chatter and plenty of tea and coffee, (maybe a few tears too) to kick start our new School year.

A big thank you to Sally and the outgoing P&F committee for their enormous contribution to the School Community in previous years.

We’d also like to take this opportunity to welcome Head of School Gavan Cramer and other new staff members, Janelle Kratzmann, Geraldine Costa and Rachel Brady.

Our first P&F Meeting will held on Monday 20th February at 7.30pm in the School Hall. All committee positions have now been filled, but parents are welcome to be committee members. If anyone would like to be involved or contribute ideas but can’t make meetings, please leave your details at the School Office and we’ll be in touch.

The 2017 committee is made up of:

Michelle & Alissia – Presidents
Melanie – Secretary
Stuart – Treasurer
Symone – Kindergarten Rep
Marie
Anhthu
Rachelle - Members
Suzanne
Kylie
Nicole

Have a great year,

Michelle & Alissia & the P&F Committee